



Three years of war in Ukraine: CEMR declaration

24 February 2025, Brussels

We, European local and regional elected representatives, on the occasion of the third anniversary of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, reaffirm our unwavering support for Ukraine and its people. We strongly condemn Russia's war, which is claiming countless victims.

We have not forgotten the elected representatives who have been kidnapped and held captive. We denounce the abduction of Ukrainian mayors, and we support the [call](#) of the Association of Ukrainian Cities demanding the immediate release of those still detained:

- **Oleksandr Babych** – Hola Prystan City Mayor (Kherson region)
- **Ihor Kolykhaiev** – Kherson City Mayor
- **Anatolii Siryi** – Starosta of Novi Borovychi starosta district, Snovsk city municipality (Chernihiv region)

We condemn the arbitrary imprisonment, torture and murder of Ukrainian people in Russian captivity, including **Yevhenii Matvieiev** – Mayor of Dniprorudne (Zaporizhzhia region) and **Oleksii Vynnychenko** - Starosta of the Hrebenykyivka starosta district of Boromlia village municipality (Sumy region).

We express our support to Ukrainian citizens and communities

We fully support Ukrainian citizens who have suffered bombings, attacks and severe human rights violations over the past three years.

We condemn the killing of more than 500 children and call for the release of the 19500 children deported to Russia and occupied territories.

We are committed to supporting peace and integration into the EU

We call for a victory for Ukraine and a just peace that will allow for its reconstruction. Achieving this requires the full engagement of the European Union and its member states at every stage within the process. European Local and Regional Governments stand ready to support them in this endeavor.

We commit to continue fostering exchanges and partnerships between local and regional governments through:

- **CEMR's Matchmaking Platform**: A Platform aiming at strengthening cooperation by connecting municipalities, regions, and local governments across Europe.
- **Bridges of Trust Community**: A network of local and regional authority representatives engaged in cooperation between local and regional authorities in the EU and Ukraine to foster trust, resilience, and sustainable and democratic governance.
- **European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine**: An Alliance uniting local and regional governments to support Ukraine's recovery through exchange of experience, partnerships and cooperation between local actors.

We stand firm in defending European values of democracy, peace, and the rule of law. We support Ukraine and are committed to accompanying it to **full EU membership**, ensuring a stronger and more secure Europe.

Vince Maple

Councillor of Medway
Chair of the
Financial Management
Committee

Philippe Laurent

Mayor of Sceaux
Co-President

Christoph Schnaudigel

President of the County
of Karlsruhe
Co-President

Gunn Marit Helgesen

Member of Telemark
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